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STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND FOR HIS WEEKLY RADIO
BROADCAST, RECORDED MAY 29, 1958.

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

May has been a disturbing month for every citizen/who is concerned with American foreign policy. The events which have commanded the most attention, of course, were the anti-American riots in South America, the grave governmental crisis in France, and the renewed threat of war in the Middle East.

There have been other disturbances, less well publicized but perhaps equally significant.

For example, there is a lesson to be learned from the fact that the Communists have just won an important election in the Southeast Asian nation of Laos. Laos probably gets more annual U.S. foreign aid per capita than any other country -- nearly \$40 million for 2,000,000 inhabitants. It happens that the country's Minister of Planning and Reconstruction, who has an important voice in the spending of some of this American money, is the leader of the Communist political movement in that country.

In Laos, we are spending almost \$20 a year for every man, woman and child in that country; yet, the party which is gaining political power is the Communist party.

We call the foreign aid program a mutual security program, but there is not much security in it, and very little mutuality. In its present form, it can only be a burden to the people of the United States.

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It is wise to give military assistance to our tried and true allies/who man stations that would otherwise have to be manned by American boys. However, if the money we spend abroad is to make a proper contribution to American security, we must limit our spending to the places where it will be effective.

We have been generous far beyond the point of wastefulness, both in allocating military aid and in distributing economic aid.

We have pressed military equipment on some countries/to equip forces greater than the country can raise/or is willing to raise. In distributing economic aid, we have assumed that economic development will pave the way for the growth of democratic governments/patterned after our own, but such is seldom the case.

We have spent more than 1½ billion dollars in aid to Communist Yugoslavia, without any assurance that Yugoslavia would be with us in case of war.

I am particularly disturbed that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee/has recommended that the President be given authority/to extend aid to all Communist/countries/except Soviet Russia, Communist China and North Korea.

Many of our economic aid programs have been misguided efforts/ because they worked to the detriment of the American economy/by setting up competitors for American industry in foreign countries. It is vital to our national security/that our own domestic industries be maintained in a strong position. Industrial might is absolutely essential in the event of war.

Heavy Federal spending is a serious threat to the whole

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national economy. The elimination of wasteful Federal spending/
is vital to our national security.

One of the best places for reducing this waste is in the foreign aid program. It has become inflated beyond all reason. In numerous countries, it is actually working against our own national interests.

During the coming week, the Senate will be considering the renewal of the foreign aid program. I am convinced that this is a misguided and dangerous program, and you may be assured that I will oppose it with all of my vigor.

I wish to thank this station for granting me this time each week, and thank you for listening.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington.

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